

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04592 310957Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 COME-00 TRSY-02 EB-08
AGR-05 /091 W
-----311019Z 087129 /20

P 310932Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6581
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 4592

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, JA, UR
SUBJECT: JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TOKYO 4932 AND PREVIOUS

1. WITH JAPAN-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS OVER SOVIET
200-MILE FISHING ZONE DEADLOCKED, BOTH SIDES HAVE
TRADED PUBLIC CHARGES THAT OTHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
IMPASSE. JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION IS, HOWEVER,
UNANIMOUSLY BEHIND GOJ: ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE
ENDORSED GOVERNMENT POSITION AND MEDIA HAS VIGOROUSLY
PROTESTED SOVIET "HEGEMONY DIPLOMACY." JAPAN
FISHERIES ASSOCIATION MARCH 30 ORGANIZED
HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED ANTI-SOVIET RALLY NEAR
SOVIET EMBASSY WITH CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SUNAO
SONODA AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER.

2. IN BID TO BREAK DEADLOCK, GOJ HAS EVIDENTLY
RESOLVED TO AGREE TO LONG-TERM PACT RUSSIANS DEMAND,
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ON BASIS OF OPPOSITION ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD BE
PROMPTLY RATIFIED BY DIET. GOJ ALSO DECIDED
MARCH 31 TO SEND CABINET SECRETARY SONODA, A
POLITICAL HEAVYWEIGHT, TO MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY IN
EFFORT TO PERSUADE SOVIETS TO DROP DEMAND THAT
JAPANESE CONFIRM USSR'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER
DISPUTED ISLANDS NORTHEAST OF HOKKAIDO AS PRICE

FOR FISHING RIGHTS. GOJ ALSO CONTINUES
ADAMANT AGAINST ALLOWING RUSSIANS TO FISH IN
SOON-TO-BE-ESTABLISHED JAPANESE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL
SEA. SUPERPARTISAN DIET GROUP WILL ALSO GO TO MOSCOW TO
"SUPPORT" JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS.

3. CRISIS HAS STIMULATED BELATED CONCERN HERE
OVER JAPANESE ABILITY, IF NECESSARY, TO PREVENT
SOVIETS FROM FISHING IN 12-MILE SEA AND PROJECTED
200-MILE FISHING ZONE. CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE THAT
COAST GUARD, EVEN IF AIDED BY MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE
FORCE, WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED, AND THAT JAPAN'S ONLY REAL
PROTECTION WOULD BE THAT AFFORDED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW.

4. MEANWHILE, SOVIETS HAVE BROKEN OFF JAPAN-USSR FISHERY
COMMISSION TALKS WHICH WERE TAKING PLACE IN TOKYO. SOVIET
NEGOTIATORS RETURNED TO MOSCOW MARCH 31, AFTER TELLING
JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS THAT DIFFERENCES IN TWO SIDES'
POSITION ON HERRING AND SALMON QUOTAS COULD NOT BE RESOLVED.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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